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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Schwabe and Unemori

Serial No.: 09/041,491

Group Art Unit: 1654

Filed: March 12, 1998

Examiner: Gupta, A.

For: RELAXIN-LIKE FACTOR AND METHODS
AND USES THEREOF

Attorney Docket No.:
7842-047-999

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action mailed March 4, 1999, in connection with the above-captioned application. A Notice of Appeal was filed on September 7, 1999; hence, this application remains pending. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and remarks that follow is kindly solicited. Applicants file herewith copies of the following articles pursuant to a request by the Examiner: Unemori et al., 1996, J. Clin. Invest. 98:2739-2745, Unemori, et al., 1993, J. Invest. Dermatol. 101:280-285, and Weiss, 1989, Biol. Reprod. 40:197-200.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 4 by deleting "or prevented".

Please amend Claim 15 by deleting "immature ripening of the cervix" and inserting therefor --ameliorated by softening the pubic ligament or the cervical ligament of the mammal--.

Please amend Claim 16 by deleting "dysfunction" and inserting therefor --dysfunction--.